



QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHEN IS THE STATE FAIR THIS YEAR?
2. HOW DO 1947 CASH FARM RECEIPTS COMPARE WITH 1946?
3. WHAT IMPORTANT CROPS SHOWED A DECREASE IN CASH RECEIPTS?
4. WHAT IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL GROUP VISITED N. C. RECENTLY?
5. WHAT DOES FAO MEAN?
6. HOW DOES THE N. C. DAIRY INDEX COMPARE WITH PREVIOUS RECORDS?
7. WHAT WAS THE SEPTEMBER INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS?
8. HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE DOING FARM LABOR IN THE U. S. ON SEPTEMBER 1?
9. WHAT ARE TWO IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS IN N. C.?
10. WHAT IMPORTANT FLUE-CURED TYPES OF TOBACCO ARE PRODUCED IN N. C.?

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

UNITED NATIONS' COMMITTEE PAYS VISIT

By pre-arrangement eleven members of the Food and Agriculture Committee of the United Nations made a study of the Crop Reporting Service at the State Department of Agriculture and the Institute of Statistics at State College on September 27 and 28, 1948. They are shown in the picture below made in the Crop Reporting office.

Although primarily concerned with the sampling methods and results developed by the field office of the B.A.E. this group was delighted with the Friday afternoon session and seminar at State College by Dr. Sukhatme from India. An informal evening dinner was followed by statements of statistical practices by the several nations' representatives.

Saturday's program included first-hand observation and explanations of records and methods employed in the 1948 and last annual farm census work for the 1,045 townships of North Carolina. This was rated tops in their evaluation. Next the thresher operator records were studied and approved. Then followed detailed presentation and explanation of the many forms and processes employed in the current farm labor survey; September cotton report, fall rural carrier survey and other reports.

A forty mile field study trip followed. Cotton, tobacco and peanuts were new to this group.

Seated left to right-David H. Bau, China; Conrad Taeuber, FAO; H. R. Tolley, FAO, Chairman; P. G. J. Smit, Netherlands; M. Iversen, Denmark; Benedetto Barberi, Italy; Chombart de Lauwe, France; V. Dore, FAO, Italy. Standing-Ray B. Converse, Crop Reporting Service, Raleigh, Clyde Z. Willis, CRS; A. L. Finkner, Institute Statistics State College; Henry Jacoby, FAO, Germany; Earl A. Finch, CRS; Olaf Wakefield, CRS; Wm. C. Hinson, CRS; P. V. Sukhatme, India; and Frank Parker, CRS, host. FAO; Food-Agriculture Organization, United Nations. CRS: Crop Reporting Service.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Generally, prices received by North Carolina farmers for their products during the middle of September showed little change compared with a month earlier. However, the "all farm products" index reached the highest point since October 1946. This pronounced increase in the index was brought about primarily by heavy sales of tobacco and does not truly indicate an over-all rise in prices received by farmers.

The new crop corn harvest is getting fully underway and is beginning to reflect noticeably in the price. The average price of corn for the state showed an 11-cent drop during the month ending September 15. Wheat showed a slight drop during the month, while oats, barley and rye were up.

After a continuous rise for several months, prices received for meat animals tended to level off during the period from mid-August to mid-September. In the meantime, the dairy index soared to the highest peak on record, resulting from higher prices received for milk and butter.

For a more detailed summary of Agricultural prices, please refer to pages 2 and 3.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS INCREASE

Total cash receipts from farm marketings in North Carolina increased 17 million dollars in 1947 over 1946, an increase of 2.3 percent. The increase in 1947 was due largely to increased sales of livestock and livestock products. Cash receipts from the sale of livestock products increased over 15 million dollars, whereas cash receipts from the sale

(See Farm Receipts, page 4)

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS
IN NORTH CAROLINA 1946 AND 1947

COMMODITY	1946	1947
	THOUSAND DOLLARS	
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS		
MEAT ANIMALS.....	38,743	44,899
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	29,688	33,948
POULTRY.....	50,702	55,018
OTHER.....	760	1,423
TOTAL.....	119,893	135,288
CROPS		
FOOD GRAINS.....	7,372	11,927
FEED CROPS.....	16,719	23,228
COTTON AND SEED.....	75,236	89,449
VEGETABLES.....	29,407	27,262
FRUITS AND NUTS.....	12,490	8,094
TOBACCO.....	436,761	404,263
OIL BEARING CROPS.....	32,497	41,345
OTHER.....	15,053	21,494
TOTAL.....	625,535	627,062
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES.	745,428	762,350

UNITED NATIONS' GROUP STUDIES AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES



INDEX HIGHEST SINCE OCTOBER 1946

The September "all farm products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers rose to 289 percent of the 1909-14 average. The index was 24 points above August and 9 points above that of a year ago. Brought about primarily by heavy sales of tobacco at prices slightly higher than last year, the index reached the highest point since October 1946, when it rose to 313 percent.

Among indexes for individual groups of farm products, only poultry and dairy products reflected increases over last month. Cotton and cottonseed, grain, meat animals and miscellaneous products dropped slightly below the August level. Tobacco showed an unusually sharp drop; however, the August index reflected prices of type 13 tobacco only, whereas, the September index reflected prices received for types 11, 12 and 13. The tobacco index dropped from 496 percent in August to 365 percent in September.

Lower average prices received for corn and wheat were chiefly responsible for the 5-point drop in the grain index. At 199 percent, the September grain index was 43 points below that of a year ago.

After soaring to an all-time high of 418 percent in August, the meat animal index leveled off and actually reflected a 4-point drop in September.

A sharp decrease in the prices received for cottonseed along with a slight drop in prices of lint pulled the cotton index down to 254, 6 points below August. Lower prices received for soybeans and cowpeas were primarily responsible for a 9-point drop in the miscellaneous products index during the month. This index now stands at 228 percent.

Moderate increases in the average prices received for eggs pushed the poultry index to 290 percent, 8 points above last month, however, 5 points below September 1947.

As milk and butter prices continued to rise, the dairy products index established a new all-time record high of 248 percent.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	AUG. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1947	SEPT. 15 1946	AUG. 15 1945
N. C. INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS.....	265	289	280	293	236
COTTON & COTTONSEED...	260	254	258	266	176
GRAIN.....	204	199	242	214	157
MEAT ANIMALS.....	418	414	371	286	219
POULTRY.....	282	290	295	264	259
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	237	248	226	214	176
TOBACCO.....	496	365	330	383	336
MISCELLANEOUS.....	237	228	235	217	218
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID*...	106	116	118	147	136
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED.....	293	290	286	243	197
PRICES PAID.....	251	250	238	199	174
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID....	117	116	120	122	113

* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. paid.

FEED PRICES DOWN

During mid-September, Tar Heel farmers using high protein and grain by-products feed were again enjoying a favorable break in prices. These feeds reflected a sharper drop in prices than has been seen before in several months. Highlighting the price drop was cottonseed meal, dropping from \$4.55 per hundred pounds in August to \$3.65 in September. Middlings, mixed dairy feeds, laying mash and tankage all were down 30 cents per hundred. Bran and scratch feed declined 25 and 20 cents, respectively, while corn meal was down 10 cents.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS SEPT. 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	AUG. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1948	AUG. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1948
- DOLLARS -				
BRAN.....	3.85	3.60	3.06	2.95
MIDDINGS.....	4.20	3.90	3.36	3.28
CORN MEAL.....	5.60	5.50	4.74	4.53
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.55	3.65	4.72	4.18
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	-	4.95	-	5.14
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	4.20	3.90	4.00	3.86
18% PROTEIN.....	4.60	4.30	4.22	4.04
20% PROTEIN.....	4.65	4.35	4.29	4.11
LAYING MASH.....	5.50	5.20	4.94	4.78
SCRATCH FEED.....	5.20	5.00	4.72	4.57
TANKAGE.....	7.10	6.80	6.05	6.07

PRICES RECEIVED FOR FARM PRODUCTS

Although most grain prices held fairly steady during the month ending in mid-September, the over-all level was down slightly. September marks the fourth consecutive month that the general level of grain prices has dropped. During the month, corn dropped to \$1.78 while wheat dropped to \$2.17. Oats at \$1.02, barley at \$1.80 and rye at \$2.41 reflected increases over August average prices.

Mid-September marked the busy season for selling flue-cured tobacco. For types 11 and 12, tobacco farmers in North Carolina received average prices of \$49.30 and \$45.20 respectively per hundred pounds. Type 13 averaged \$45.00 per hundred for the farmers during the middle of September, or \$9.70 less than in mid-August.

Beef cattle and lamb prices held steady at \$19.50 and \$23.80, respectively, while hogs at \$26.20, veal calves at \$25.00 and sheep at \$10.00 were down slightly.

Wholesale milk rose from \$5.60 to \$5.70 per hundred weight while milk retailed by farmers rose from 19.9 cents per quart to 21.3 cents per quart. Butter at 60 cents was up 2 cents per pound.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS SEPTEMBER 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		AUG. 15	SEPT. 15	SEPT. 15
		1948	1948	1948
- DOLLARS -				
TOBACCO, TYPE 11...	LB.		.493	
TYPE 12...	LB.		.452	
TYPE 13...	LB.	.547	.450	
CORN.....	BU.	1.89	1.78	1.78
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.21	2.17	1.97
OATS.....	BU.	.97	1.02	.687
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.64	1.80	1.08
RYE.....	BU.	2.20	2.41	1.39
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	3.00	2.40	2.45
COWPEAS.....	BU.	5.40	4.70	4.34
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.109	.104	.104
COTTON.....	LB.	.323	.317	.309
COTTONSEED.....	TON	71.00	66.00	68.10
WOOL.....	LB.	.48	.48	.463
HOGS.....	CWT.	26.70	26.20	27.30
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	19.50	19.50	24.20
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	25.30	25.00	26.20
SHEEP.....	CWT.	10.10	10.00	9.73
LAMB.....	CWT.	23.80	23.80	23.40
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.32	.30	.319
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.55	.59	.514
MILK; WHOLESALE.....	CWT.	5.60	5.70	5.08
RETAIL.....	QT.	.199	.213	.194
BUTTER.....	LB.	.58	.60	.662
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.63	.63	.756
HAY; ALL LOOSE.....	TON	30.70	33.10	18.00
ALL BALED.....	TON	33.70	35.70	22.70
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.65	1.70	1.53
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.60	2.40	2.32
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	1.70	1.90	2.44
PEACHES.....	BU.	2.90	2.90	-
PEARS.....	BU.	2.00	2.00	-
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	CWT.	14.80	14.80	12.50
KOREAN.....	CWT.	12.20	12.20	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	17.00	17.00	-
COM. & TENN. 76..	CWT.	21.00	21.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	22.00	22.00	-

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Declines in prices of many crop and livestock items during the month ended September 15, 1948 reduced for the second consecutive month the index of prices received by farmers. As of September 15, the index was 290, which is 3 points or 1 percent lower than a month ago, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced September 29. At the same time the parity index (index of prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes) declined 1 point to 250. As a result, the parity ratio (ratio of the index of prices received to the parity index) now stands at 116.

The index of prices received by farmers at 290 was about 1 percent above the 286 of September a year ago. Prices of farm crops averaged 9 percent below a year earlier, but prices of livestock and livestock products, which are more important in the index, averaged 9 percent higher. The parity index was 5 percent higher than a year ago.

During the month ended with mid-September, prices of most grains, most meat animals, butterfat, and cottonseed continued the declines of a month earlier. Although lower prices were reported for nearly two-thirds of the principal crop and livestock items for which the Bureau publishes monthly data, most of the declines were relatively small and were partially offset by modest increases in other commodities including hay, milk, hogs eggs, and cotton currently being sold.

COMPARISON OF U.S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES*

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		ACTUAL PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	AUG. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1948	AUG. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1948	AUG. 15 1948	SEPT. 15 1948
	- DOLLARS -		- DOLLARS -		- PERCENT -	
COTTON, LB..	.304	.309	.311	.310	98	100
WHEAT, BU...	1.96	1.97	2.22	2.21	88	89
CORN, BU....	1.91	1.78	1.61	1.60	119	111
OATS, BU....	.688	.687	1.00	.998	69	69
BARLEY, BU..	1.14	1.08	1.55	1.55	74	70
RYE, BU....	1.46	1.39	1.81	1.80	81	77
BEEF CATTLE, CWT..	24.40	24.20	13.60	13.60	179	178
HOGS, CWT..	27.10	27.30	18.20	18.20	149	150
LAMBS, CWT..	24.80	23.40	14.80	14.70	-	159
CHICKENS, LB	.325	.319	.286	.285	114	112
EGGS, DOZ...	.492	.514	.54	.576	91	89
MILK, (WHOLE-SALE) CWT...	5.00	5.08	3.94	4.12	127	123

*Parity means a price for the farmer's product which will give it exchange value for things the farmer needs to buy equal to that in a specified base period, usually (1909=14).

THE U. S. DEMAND AND PRICE SITUATION

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board August 27, 1948

Commodity highlights--prices of the new crop wheat in late August were still generally below loan rates although prices strengthened as the storage situation improved. As a result of the record corn crop in prospect, corn prices are expected to decline much more than seasonally during the next few months and probably will be close to support levels by the end of the year. In mid-August cotton prices at the farm level were above support levels but were below parity for the first time in more than 3 years reflecting the unusually large cotton crop and smaller than expected exports financed under the E. C. A. in recent months. Sharply improved dairy products-feed price relationships will tend to slow down the decline in milk cow numbers during the remainder of 1948. The record feed crops may temporarily restrict meat production this fall as more animals are held back for feeding. Price of meat animals and dairy products continue near record levels.

COMMERCIAL BROILERS

Hatcheries and dealers in the Chatham and Wilkes Areas combined placed approximately 872,000 chicks with broiler producers during the month of September, an increase of 1,000 over placements during August. There were 524,000 chicks placed in the Chatham Area compared with 478,000 placed during the corresponding month last year. Placements in the Wilkes Area for the month of September totaled 348,000 chicks. These figures compare with 552,000 chicks placed in the Chatham Area and 319,000 placed in the Wilkes Area during the month of August.

The number of eggs set in the two areas combined was 985,000 compared with 732,000 eggs set during the previous month, an increase of approximately 35 percent. Chicks hatched, at 703,000, showed an increase of 152,000 over hatchings in the two areas during August. There were 505,000 and 480,000 eggs set in the Chatham and Wilkes Areas respectively during September. Of the total chicks hatched in the two areas, 360,000 were hatched in the Chatham Area and 343,000 in the Wilkes Area.

HATCHERY OUTPUT DOWN

Output of chicks from commercial hatcheries in North Carolina totaled 1,530,000 chicks during August, 1948. This compares with 2,616,000 chicks hatched in July this year and is 16 percent less than the August output a year ago. The seasonal decline in hatchings at this time of the year is greater than usual due principally to a sharp decline in the supply of eggs for hatching. North Carolina chicks hatched during the first 8 months of 1948 totaled around 31.4 millions compared with 30.5 millions for the same period in 1947. In general a strong demand for chicks for commercial broiler production continues. This demand has been stimulated to some extent by declining feed prices.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

North Carolina's 355 thousand milk cows produced 149 million pounds of milk during August for an average monthly production of 419 pounds per cow. In July, the same number of cows produced 147 million pounds. Total production and average production during August were considerably higher than during August of last year when 358 thousand cows produced 145 million pounds.

EGG PRODUCTION

Hens on North Carolina farms laid 67 million eggs during August. Production was 12 million below that of the previous month and 4 million below total eggs laid during August 1947. There were 5,943,000 layers on farms during August, comparing with 6,105,000 during July and 6,513,000 during August of last year. The August rate of lay averaged 11.2 eggs per hen compared to 12.9 in July. This decrease in the rate of lay reflect the normal seasonal trend; however, the rate of lay per bird since March of this year has been higher than during the same period of 1947. The rate of lay during August of last year was 10.8 eggs.

Recent surveys indicate that two important areas of economic activity are likely to remain exceptionally strong through 1948. Residential construction will probably set records in both physical volume and value. Capital expenditures for plant and equipment are exceeding last year's record by a wide margin.

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

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FARM RECEIPTS

of all crops increased less than 2 million dollars. Crop sales accounted for 83.9 percent of the total cash receipts in 1946 and 82.3 percent in 1947.

Receipts from the sale of all livestock and products commodities increased in 1947 over 1946. Receipts from the sale of vegetables, fruits and nuts and tobacco decreased in 1947 as compared with 1946. Tobacco sales decreased over 32 million dollars in 1947. Among the various crops, food grains and feed crops showed the highest percentage increase in cash receipts in 1947.

The table shows a comparison of cash receipts by commodities in 1946 and 1947.

FARM LABOR

There were 11,251,000 persons doing farm labor in the United States on September 1, 1947. Hired labor made up 3,022,000 of the total, with 8,229,000 family workers. This compares with a total of 11,132,000 for September 1 last year and the (1935-39) average number for September 1 of 11,973,000 persons. Total employment for September 1 was larger than any year since 1943.

Employment in the 8 South Atlantic States extending from Delaware through Florida totaled 2,113,000 persons of which 1,577,000 were family workers and 536,000 hired workers. The farm wage rate index for South Atlantic States was at 381 compared with the 1910-14 annual average of 100.

With prices of farm products in danger of declining, farm labor may become attracted to continued urban higher pay. Thus farming is faced with increasing economies and better planning to meet possible increasing shortages.

TOBACCO SALES TO DATE

GROSS SALES OF TOBACCO AND AVERAGE PRICE PER HUNDRED POUNDS FOR COMPARABLE NUMBER OF SALES DAYS IN 1947 AND 1948 BY TYPES, ALL STATES.

TYPE	SALES THROUGH	TOTAL GROSS POUNDS SOLD	AVERAGE PER 100 POUNDS
13	9-29-48 10- 3-47	252,532,923 267,401,965	\$50.48 42.23
12	9-30-48 10- 6-47	248,337,333 253,700,426	47.77 41.38
11A	9-30-48 10-10-47	78,101,711 59,195,041	53.21 43.12
11B	9-30-48 10-10-47	69,818,781 67,681,616	50.98 43.12

Source: PMA and NCDA, cooperating

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco during fiscal 1948 were 411 million pounds (declared weight) compared with 591 million in the previous year.

STATE FAIR OCTOBER 19-23rd

Early in October things were busy at the State Fair Grounds near Raleigh. Even the Crop Reporting Service is preparing an exhibit in the East Main Hall nearest the waterfall just between the two doors leading to the Central Hall. The Weather Bureau and Agricultural Estimates are joining forces, because, after all, weather and farming certainly are closely related. Interesting action features are underway, including weather instruments, a daily weather-crops-fair report, statistical maps, publications, modern machines and experts to answer questions that may arise regarding the exhibit. Free literature will be available to all who desire it.

Crop Estimating will be explained with actual working materials for those interested.

LIVESTOCK ARE ALWAYS POPULAR AT THE STATE FAIR

